

CLAIMS

1. A bottle stopper for a wine bottle or the like, which bottle stopper comprises a body having a sealing member which sits within the neck of the bottle in use and
5 which extends radially outwardly to seal the bottle neck, the stopper further having a passageway extending upwardly therethrough to communicate with the interior of the bottle and which incorporates or communicates with a chamber within the stopper in which is housed an oxygen-scavenging medium, wherein the stopper further has a closure means to close the passageway and which is operable by
10 actuator means that is external to the bottle in use to enable the user to open the passageway when the stopper is in place.
2. A bottle stopper as claimed in Claim 1, wherein the bottle stopper has a mechanism for compressing the sealing member substantially axially of the stopper
15 to expand the sealing member laterally/substantially radially of the stopper into sealing contact with the neck of the bottle.
3. A bottle stopper as claimed in Claim 2, wherein the actuator for opening the closure means for the passageway is the same as or coupled to an actuator of the
20 mechanism for compressing the sealing member.
4. A bottle stopper as claimed in any preceding claim, wherein the oxygen-scavenging means, or oxygen absorber, comprises reduced iron or a polymer containing unsaturated carbon-carbon double bonds.
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5. A bottle stopper as claimed in any preceding claim, wherein the oxygen scavenging means has or is associated with an indicator means to indicate when the oxygen scavenging means has scavenged the oxygen within the bottle.
- 30 6. A bottle stopper as claimed in Claim 5, wherein the indicator comprises an indicator compound which changes colour.
7. A bottle stopper as claimed in Claim 5 or 6, wherein the indicator compound is separate from the oxygen scavenging means and is housed within a chamber in
35 the stopper that has a transparent wall or has a window to enable the change of appearance of the indicator means to be viewed externally.

8. A bottle stopper as claimed in any preceding claim, wherein the indicator means and/ or the oxygen scavenging means is housed within a chamber that is externally accessible.
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9. A bottle stopper as claimed in Claim 8, wherein the chamber is accessible through removal of a screw-threaded or push/snap-fit cap that encloses and seals the chamber.
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10. A bottle stopper as claimed in Claim 7, wherein the indicator means is housed in an uppermost chamber having a cap with a window for visibility.
11. A bottle stopper as claimed in Claim 5, wherein the oxygen scavenging means is housed in a chamber below the indicator means and separately accessible
- 15 by uncoupling an upper part of the bottle stopper body.
12. A bottle stopper substantially as hereinbefore described with reference to any suitable combination of the accompanying drawings.
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13. A bottle stopper for a wine bottle or the like, which bottle stopper comprises a body having a sealing member which sits within the neck of the bottle in use and which extends radially outwardly to seal the bottle neck, the stopper further having a passageway extending upwardly therethrough to communicate with the interior of
- 25 the bottle and which incorporates or communicates with a chamber within the stopper in which is housed an oxygen-scavenging medium, wherein the oxygen scavenging means has or is associated with an indicator means to indicate when the oxygen scavenging means has scavenged the oxygen within the bottle, the stopper having a transparent wall or a window to enable the change of appearance
- 30 of the indicator means to be viewed externally by the user.
14. A bottle stopper as claimed in Claim 13, wherein the bottle stopper has a mechanism for compressing the sealing member substantially axially of the stopper to expand the sealing member laterally/substantially radially of the stopper into
- 35 sealing contact with the neck of the bottle.

15. A bottle stopper as claimed in Claim 13 or 14, wherein the oxygen-scavenging means, or oxygen absorber, comprises reduced iron or a polymer containing unsaturated carbon-carbon double bonds.
- 5 16. A bottle stopper as claimed in Claim 13, 14 or 15, wherein the indicator comprises an indicator compound which changes colour.
17. A bottle stopper as claimed in Claim 13, 14, 15, or 16, wherein the indicator means and/ or the oxygen scavenging means is housed within a chamber that is
10 externally accessible.
18. A bottle stopper as claimed in Claim 17, wherein the chamber is accessible through removal of a screw-threaded or push/snap-fit cap that encloses and seals the chamber.
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19. A bottle stopper as claimed in Claim 18, wherein the indicator means is housed in an uppermost chamber having a cap with a window for visibility.
20. A bottle stopper as claimed in Claim 19, wherein the oxygen scavenging
20 means is housed in a chamber below the indicator means and separately accessible by uncoupling an upper part of the bottle stopper body.
21. A bottle stopper for a wine bottle or the like, which bottle stopper comprises a
25 body having a sealing member which sits within the neck of the bottle in use and which extends radially outwardly to seal the bottle neck, the stopper further having a passageway extending upwardly therethrough to communicate with the interior of the bottle and which incorporates or communicates with a chamber within the stopper in which is housed an oxygen-scavenging medium, wherein the oxygen
30 scavenging medium is housed within a chamber that is externally accessible by a portion of the bottle stopper that is readily demountable by the user to enable the user to access and replace the oxygen scavenging medium and reclose the chamber, wherein the chamber is accessible through removal of a screw-threaded or push/snap-fit cap that encloses and seals the chamber.